



## Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC)

Lead Departments: Government Relations and  
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### **Background**

San Diego is proud to host the largest single concentration of military facilities in the world; home to 12 major facilities. The San Diego Chamber of Commerce estimates the local economic impact at \$13.6 billion (2002).

The Pentagon is currently engaged in a fifth round of military base closures that will, in 2005, culminate in closing of up to 25% of all existing facilities. The proceedings consist of simultaneous development of two studies:

- 20 year estimate of likely military actions and force projection needs by each branch of the military
- Inventory of all existing military facilities, and an analysis of how these facilities match the 20 year force projection needs.

This fifth round of BRAC differs from previous rounds in three significant ways:

1. The criteria for base closings shall be national security alone – where previous rounds also considered local economic impact of military facilities
2. Support facilities (such as labs and depots) will be considered for closure or consolidation, in addition to full military bases
3. Consolidation of similar operations currently managed independently by different military branches will be proposed by the Pentagon

By unanimous vote earlier in 2003, the City Council:

1. Adopted a consultant report that evaluated the role that military facilities in the San Diego region play in the defense of our nation, and the potential for “realignment” of the work to, or from, the San Diego facility
2. Directed The Government Relations and Economic & Community Development Departments to work with the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation to establish a Task Force to advocate on behalf of regional military facilities
3. Authorized the same Departments to fund consultant support for the advocacy initiative

The following key developments are anticipated later this year, and in 2004:

- The Secretary of Defense will issue criteria, in draft form, by which closures and realignments will be conducted, in December of 2003, with 30 days for public comment to follow. Final criteria will be issued in February of 2004
- The Secretary of Defense must submit both the 20-year force structure plan, and the inventory of infrastructure to Congress in February, 2004
- The Pentagon will develop closure and realignment recommendations from March, 2004 to May, 2005

It should be noted that seven of the 21 remaining scenarios being considered by the San Diego Regional Airport Authority rest upon existing military sites. These include:

**MCAS Miramar:** as a full replacement airport facility + SDIA is closed

**East Miramar:** as a full replacement airport facility + SDIA is closed

**NAS North Island:** as a full replacement airport facility + SDIA is closed

**Intertie between SDIA + NAS North Island:** SDIA is converted to a check-in, landside facility + intertie to NAS North Island for airfield/airside operations via a passenger/luggage conveyance system

**MCB/MCAS Camp Pendleton:** Two scenarios: 1) as a full replacement airport facility + SDIA is closed; and 2) as a full service airport + SDIA remains open and serves destinations within 500 miles

**March AFB in Riverside County:** as a full service airport that would serve North San Diego County + SDIA remains open and serves destinations within 500 miles

**Salt Marsh Naval Communications Station Area:** Full replacement airport facility + SDIA is closed

### **State Issues**

None

### **Federal Issues**

- The Task Force established by the Council will complete an evaluation of facility threats and opportunities, as well as advocacy recommendations by February, 2004
- The Government Relations and Community & Economic Development Departments will continue to fund Task force and consultant activities
- The Government Relations Department will complete a coordinated communications strategy between the City of San Diego, the San Diego Regional Airport Authority and the Federal Government on the issue of future airport operations on military facilities, and will report such strategy to Council.